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FEBRUARY 6TH, 1866.

JAMES HUNT, ESQ., PH.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The names of the following gentlemen who had been elected Fellows and Local Secretaries of the Society were then announced. Francis Campin, C.E., 6, Salisbury Street, Strand; Thomas Edmondston, Esq., 6, Albany Street, Edinburgh; Benjamin Hinde, Esq., M.D., Tarbert, co. Kerry; Louis Henry Mignot, Esq., 50, Upper Harley Street, Cavendish Square; W. S. Pendon, Esq., M.D., 13, Wellington Street, Belfast; James Pinnock, Esq., The Hawthornes, New Road, Hammersmith; Capt. James Smyth, 69th regiment, North Camp, Aldershot; A. Walker, Esq., Preston, Kirkbean, Dumfries. *Local Secretaries*:—Theodor A. Rosenbusch, Esq., Sierra Leone; George Mott, Esq., Morningside, Victoria.

Mr. BLAKE announced that the following presents had been received, and thanks were voted to the donors. Photographs of Australian Aborigines (John Fraser, Esq.); Les Statues du Priape (W. Eassie, Esq.); On the Feeble-minded and Idiotic (Dr. P. M. Duncan); On the Mammary Glands of Echidna Hystrix (Prof. Owen).

Mr. BEAVAN said, A letter has been received by the Hon. Sec. from Mr. G. Jasper Nicholls, our Local Secretary at Oude. In this communication Mr. Nicholls desires to inform the Society that he purposes investigating the country stretching from the Santhal Pergunnas in the central provinces to the ancient boundaries of the Telenga country. This expedition will doubtless be of great use to anthropology; but Mr. Nicholls requests direction and information concerning those points especially to be noted by him. The forthcoming instructions to Local Secretaries will, however, contain all the suggestions likely to be needed, and from Mr. Nicholl's character for perseverance and energy, there is no doubt but that he will do justice to the Society's inquiries.

The PRESIDENT observed, that the preparation of instructions for the Local Secretaries of the Society was a matter of considerable importance, which was now under consideration, and when they were completed a copy of the instructions would be forwarded to Mr. Nicholls, and would no doubt give him the information he required.

Mr. BOLLAERT read the following paper communicated by Dr. Hyde Clarke:—

Notes on the People inhabiting Moravian Wallachia. By HYDE CLARKE, Esq., LL.D., Loc. Sec. A.S.L., President of the Academy of Anatolia, Member of the German Asiatic Society, Society of Northern Antiquaries, etc.

Several of the races in Turkey are much distributed, and the Wallachians constitute a well-marked example. In the Roumelian border they are found mixed in groups and spots with Albanians, Slaves, etc.,

and they penetrate among the Magyars and Slavonians. When in Wallachia I heard some interesting traits of the way in which a community of feeling and intercourse is kept up among the scattered members, and the way in which this distribution affects the various dialects.

My attention has been called to the publication by M. D. P. Martziano in Wallachian, of an article on Moravian Wallachia, which, however, I cannot here procure, but of which there is a long notice in the *Journal of Constantinople*. As the *Bucinal* and the *Journal* are equally inaccessible to English readers, I have thought some account may be desirable.

Wallachian Moravia or Moravian Wallachia is a district in the east of Moravia among the mountains in the head-waters of the Lubina, a feeder of the Oder, and of the Beciva, a feeder of the Morava, and so of the Black Sea. The population is about 50,000 or 60,000, and the chief town is Roznau, with 3,000 inhabitants, a bathing place. Walachish Mezeritsch is a small town.

The people are recognised by the Moravians as belonging to an alien race, but they speak Slavonic. Their classification has not yet been decided. M. Martziano having gone to Roznau for the benefit of his health, was struck by the appearance of being among a Wallachian people, and he has applied himself to study their relations.

Of the history of the people nothing is known. In his attempts to determine the classification by the philological method, he appears to have been baffled; for, notwithstanding a determined analysis of the local dialect, he has not been able to bring forward any evidence against its Slavonic character. He therefore applied himself to physical characteristics, and he affirms that these are distinctly Wallachian, particularly in the beauty of the women. He has further applied himself to the race features, and upon these he greatly relies as confirmatory of a Wallachian type. As to what he says of the pronunciation being more melodious than is usual among Slaves, this appears to be of very doubtful value. He affirms that the popular legends and songs confirm, but of this we do not as yet know the evidence. He says their habits and clothing are distinctly recognisable; and this last feature really marks the Wallachians. Their mode of feeding and habits generally he identified, and he observed a particular antipathy towards the Slaves. What he strongly relies upon, however, must command the attention of all who know Wallachia, and that is what is euphuistically described as the little taste the women have for sacrificing to Vesta. This must be acknowledged as a striking evidence of identity.

With regard to this characteristic it may be observed, that late advices represent the Wallachian *coup d'état* government as about to restrict the licence of divorce with a view of purifying the country, a measure of questionable morality, as it may break down the last barrier of decency, for it is believed there may be women in Wallachia who are satisfied with only so many husbands as the liberty of divorce affords them, and such moderation could no longer be legitimately gratified.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT the thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Clarke.

Mr. CARTER BLAKE read the following letter from Gaboon:—

“Gaboon, October 2, 1865.

“MY DEAR SIR,—As a ship sails for Liverpool direct to morrow, I avail myself of the opportunity to forward to the Anthropological Society a Fan shield and nine Fan spears, which my agent in Liverpool will send on to you, and which I trust may safely reach you. I had every hope of sending, per same opportunity, the skeleton of an Mpongwe, but, during my absence in search of a gorilla, the bush in which it lay was fired by the people (as is their wont in the dry season) and the skeleton was completely destroyed. However, I trust to have the pleasure of sending you something better in a month's time, as I go away the day after to-morrow on a shooting excursion, during which I hope to pick up something, and afterwards I go to Camma.

“Very truly yours,

“R. B. N. WALKER.”

Mr. H. J. C. BEAVAN then read a paper: “Notes on the Races inhabiting Spain,” which will appear at length in the *Memoirs*.

The paper commenced with a short account of the various races and crosses of races in Spain. The author divided them into four distinct classes; the Spaniards proper, the Basques, the descendants of the Moors, and the Gitanos. The Morescoes (or descendants of the Moors) are to some extent of pure blood, but the great majority of them have intermarried with Spaniards. The next point touched on was the general character of the inhabitants; and here the author quoted remarks from Swinburne, Zamacola, Serviez, and the few other writers who have made the people of Spain their study. A short notice of the Basques and their language followed; and in conclusion the author expressed a hope that we should ere long have better opportunities of studying the anthropology of Spain, especially since the formation of an Anthropological Society at Madrid.

“In concluding these few remarks,” he added, “I must express a hope that ere long we may have some really useful and reliable information concerning anthropology in Spain. The field is a new one; it is rich in many ways; and I think, with time and attention, that a large number of facts may be obtained which will be of service to our Society in the prosecution of its studies of the science of man.”

The thanks of the meeting having been given to Mr. Beavan for his paper,

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE read the following communication on the subject from Dr. Charnock:—

Dr. Charnock said,* that to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the peoples of Spain it would be as well to look somewhat into its early history. The earliest inhabitants of the Peninsula appear to have been the Iberians and Celts. At an early period the seaports and

* Printed from Dr. Charnock's MS. by order of the Council.—ED.